

opc Bulletin

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Election Ushers in Seven New OPC Board Members

EVENT RECAP: AUGUST 24

by Aimee Vitrak

This year's OPC election received 90 ballots, two from overseas. This was the first year in many where there was stiff competition for a seat on the OPC board, with Election Committee Chairman Allan Dodds Frank securing 14 candidates for eight spots on the Active board, and four Associate candidates for two spots.

Usually in a paper ballot elections, the person listed last is the one who receives last consideration for a vote, but election vote counter Kate Hunt said Seymour Topping defied the "bottom of the list order" and came out with the highest number of votes despite being listed, in alphabetical order, as last on the ballot.

New Active OPC board members: Seymour Topping, Tom Squitieri, Tim Ferguson, Jonathan Dahl and Evelyn Leopold. New Associate board members: Abi Wright and Emma Daly. Winning a second term are Active OPC board members: Adam Ellick, Toni Reinhold and

Travis Fox.

Richard Sherman, the Club's accountant, reviewed OPC finances with the group assembled on August 24 at Club Quarters. The 2010-2011 fiscal year saw the net worth of the Club grow to \$126,730, up more than \$12,000 from the previous year. Income grew from the awards, as the OPC added six new awards and also increased the price of award entries from \$175 to \$200. Although the overall financial picture for the Club is good, Sherman had two notes of caution: the number of unsponsored awards, which totalled 11 this year, a marked increase because of the six new online awards, and the high cost of online transactions. While it's convenient to pay Club fees and award entries online, it also costs the Club three percent of each total bill, which grew the outlays significantly in the past year.

Larry Martz, representing the Freedom of the Press Committee, delivered his annual recap and the Committee's future plan. This year saw the demise of the Committee's founder, Norman Schorr, and also the departure of two long-standing Committee members, Kevin McDermott and Jeremy Main, who served for 14 and 10 years respectively. Martz has agreed to stay on as Committee chair for the next year, searching for a replacement and also recalibrating the Committee's focus. He said it will continue to write letters, but will also expand into writing articles on the issue of press freedom. The Committee will have its first article



Celebrating at the bar after the Annual Meeting were Tom Squitieri, Clarissa McNair, Allan Dodds Frank, Club Quarters bartender Kazi, Evelyn Leopold, Abigail Pesta, Bob Sullivan and Bill Holstein

published in the fall 2011 *World Policy Journal*, which is edited by OPC President David A. Andleman. Martz said he will spend the next year looking for new recruits for the Committee who would be interested in blogging and generating discussion on OPC social networking pages on Facebook and the OPC Twitter handle. See page 11 for a detailed description of how the Committee would like to transition in the coming year.

OPC Foundation President William J. Holstein and Foundation Executive Director Jane Reilly delivered the foundation annual report. This past year the endowment reached \$700,000, with two new scholarships in honor of Walter Cronkite and Jerry Flint. Fourteen scholarships of \$2000 and five internships with AP and Reuters with the OPC Foundation contributing \$3000 each were awarded at the annual luncheon in February. Reilly sung the praises of the scholars who write frequently to her about their experiences abroad. "The OPC scholarships are life-changing and valued by the scholars," Reilly said.

The meeting ended at the Club Quarters bar where new board members were welcomed by current board members and OPC leadership.

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Director Discusses His Film on Georgian Offensive

by Tim Ferguson

The movie "5 Days of War," just opening, is going to give Vladimir Putin conniptions for at least a week.

This is a brutal, passionate and partisan film about the Russian-led military offensive against the republic of Georgia in 2008, just as the glamorous Olympics were opening in Beijing. The assault began over events in the contested South Ossetia region between the two countries (all of this bitter battleground having once been part of the USSR). Those preceding events, according to Putin and more-neutral observers, included unseemly acts by Georgians against other ethnics in the territory—but they are barely noted in this dramatization. Instead, we see the full fury of the Russian military and mercenary allies directed against Georgia and the Georgians.

Director Renny Harlin has a background in action thrillers and this is his step into the political realm. It is a big-set movie shot on a modest budget (\$12 million, Harlin told OPC members at the screening held on August 17; \$15 million-plus, others have reported). Georgian officials invited the making of the picture and provided much of the logistics. Many of the country's affected villagers (and troops) appear as extras.

So, no surprise, this is Georgia's side of the story. Given the history of the Russian empire — before, during and after the Soviet nightmare — it is easy for

Westerners to be sympathetic. Georgia under President Mikheil Saakashvili has aligned itself with NATO and tried to integrate itself into the market economy. Some, even Georgian patriots, believe he pushed too far back in 2008 and antagonized Putin and the Russians, just as the domestic critics say he is a crypto-authoritarian at home today. But in this movie, played by Andy Garcia, he is a democratic victim and would-be peacemaker, all but abandoned by Western allies.

Harlin has dedicated this work to the hundreds of journalists who've lost their lives covering war, a nice touch. Yet he also takes a shot at the media business. Although the correspondents and photographers who guide the audience through the carnage are winning if bibulous characters (Val Kilmer!), their unseen bosses are portrayed as enablers of Putin's onslaught. Not only are the grim scenes of one-on-one killing, maiming and (implied) rape chockablock, but thanks to the Georgian government's supplying of fighter jets, tanks and other military might to the filmmakers, we get an unusually vivid feel in "5 Days" for how devastating and frightening modern "raids" on villages and towns can be. Harlin said he relied more on actual than on special effects.

However, it is the power of media, of getting the precious footage of war crimes out, that is the primary motivation of the film's transplanted heroes. They must show a callous world the war crimes being



Director/Producer Renny Harlin with OPC Executive Director Sonya Fry.

committed. The resultant, awakened outrage, according to this historical storytelling, is basically what checked the Russians. The offensive ceased short of Tbilisi, and the movie's villains symbolically halt short of annihilating our protagonists.

Alas, the fractious story of Russia, Georgia and their suffering peoples probably has not ended. Putin and Saakashvili are still at each other's throats, which is why the Kremlin boss is likely to be fuming over this latest Western affront. One only hopes that the tortured faces of the countrymen brought to life in "5 Days" are not to be replayed over and over for a world that chooses to watch, or not.

This review originally appeared on Forbes.com, <http://onforb.es/nQ02gE>

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PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

WINNERS: Kim Chakanetsa, who won this year's



Kim Chakanetsa

OPC Stan Swinton Scholarship, is working on CNN's international desk in Atlanta until November. She was selected for the three-month assignment as CNN's Margaret Moth Fellow. Graduating this spring from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Chakanetsa won her OPC scholarship with an essay on refugees in Africa.

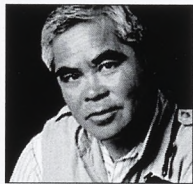
Wood won first place with her report on questionable expense accounts filed by a board member of the Orange County Water District. Her story about the Orange County district attorney's program to collect DNA samples from tens of thousands of people charged with misdemeanor offences won a second place. Wood filed the reports on the Voice of OC, a nonprofit investigative news agency in Orange County.



Tracy Wood

(IPI) awarded its 2011 Free Media Pioneer Award to Radio Kalima, an online broadcaster and news website in Tunisia. Founded in 2000 by journalists **Naziha Razjib** and **Sihem Bensedrine**, the broadcaster quickly became a target for repeated harassment by government authorities for its independent reporting. Forced to broadcast clandestinely, its staff has been fined, detained, harassed, beaten and arrested on criminal charges. IPI Director **Alison Bethel McKenzie** said, "Radio Kalima's undaunted commitment to independent reporting in the face of all odds has been an inspiration for all of us, and for media around the world."

Pulitzer Prize photographer **Nick Ut** of the AP won a lifetime achievement award in August from the Vietnam Reporting Project of the Asian American Journalist Association at San Francisco's State University. In 1972 during the Vietnam War, Ut received a Pulitzer Prize for his image of 9-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc as she ran naked and screaming toward his camera, her skin badly burned from a napalm attack on her village. After taking a photo of the girl, Ut rushed the girl to the hospital, saving her life. Besides the Pulitzer Prize, this image won awards from the OPC, Sigma Delta Chi and the National Press Club, and it won the World Press Photo Award and the George Polk Memorial Award. Since 1975 when the war ended, Nick has worked for the AP in Tokyo, South Korea, Hanoi, and Los Angeles, where he lives with his family.



Nick Ut

Thet Sambath, 44, who spent years reporting on the brutal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia and interviewing the Khmer Rouge leader he holds responsible for his parents' deaths, won this year's Knight International Journalist Award. The first Cambodian to receive the award, he produced "Enemies of the People," a documentary on the Khmer Rouge. Now he is a senior reporter with the *Phnom Penh Post*, Sambath got his training on the *Cambodian Daily*. The Knight Award will be presented at a ceremony and banquet in Washington November 1.

Joe Galloway, who covered the Vietnam War and co-authored a book about that war's first major battle involving U.S. troops, received the 2011 Doughboy Award, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Army Infantry. The award was presented at the Doughboy Dinner at Fort Benning, Georgia in September. Galloway and Lieutenant General **Hal Moore** wrote *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young*, a book about the 1965 battle in the Ia Drang Valley that was made into a movie.

Tracy Wood, who was sent by UPI from the New York foreign desk to Saigon in 1972 to cover the Vietnam War, won two awards in July from the Orange County Press Club in California.

MURDERS: Muneer Shakir, a reporter for the Online News Network and the Baluch TV station Sabzbaat in Khuzdar, capital of Pakistan's restive Baluchistan province, was fatally shot around midday August 14 while he headed home from the Khuzdar press club. He was the fifth journalist killed in Pakistan this year.



Farah Hassan Sahal's I.D.

Farah Hassan Sahal, 45, a newscaster at the privately-owned Radio Simba, was fatally shot at close range August 4 while he and two colleagues were removing equipment from the Mogadishu, Somalia station to be stored in a safer place. Witnesses said the shots were fired by a soldier with the peace-keeping African Union Mission in Somalia or the Transitional Federal Government. He was shot once in the head and twice in the chest.

The International Press Institute

(Continued on Page 4)

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◆

José Agustín Silvestre de los Santos, 59, a TV presenter, was found dead in El Penon, Dominican Republic August 2. Four assailants grabbed Silvestre outside a hotel around 8 a.m. that day and forced him into a Jeep. His body was found about an hour later near a highway with three gunshot wounds, one to the head, one to the neck and one to the abdomen. Police on August 7 arrested a man on charges that he carried out the murder on orders from Matias Avelino Castro, owner of a hotel and advertising agency who wanted to avenge an article by Silvestre linking him to criminal activity including two murders. Silvestre hosted the program "La Voz de la Verdad" (Voice of Truth) on a regional TV station and edited a magazine of the same name. He reported on crime and alleged links between drug traffickers and police and judicial officials.

◆

The decapitated head and body of crime reporter **Yolanda Ordaz de la Cruz** was found in Veracruz, Mexico on July 26, three days after she was abducted by armed men as she left her house. Ordaz covered the police beat for the newspaper *Notiver*, but her mutilated body was found near the building of the *Imagen* newspaper. Investigators said her murder may have been linked to the June 20 murders of columnist **Miguel Ángel López Velasco**, his wife and son, a newspaper photographer.

◆

Auro Ida, 53, a political journalist and editor of the Midianews website, was in a car with his 19-year-old girlfriend in Cuiabá, Brazil July 22 when a man on a bicycle ordered the woman to get out of the car. The man then fatally shot Ida six times in the head and chest and fled on foot. A police theory that jealousy was the motive for the murder was disputed by a legislator who said Ida had received death threats connected with his journalistic work.

◆

Nery Geremías Orellana, 26, manager of local radio station Radio Joconguera and a correspondent for the Christian station Radio Progreso, was riding his motorcycle to work in Honduras' Lempira state July 14 when unidentified assailants shot him in the head. He was found alive on a road but died in a nearby hospital. Orellana coordinated a news program that regularly denounced local corruption, and he had received anonymous death threats.

◆

In a dispatch from Islamabad published July 5, *The New York Times* wrote that Pakistan's spy agency ordered the killing of journalist **Saleem Shahzad**, 41, because he reported that militants had infiltrated the country's military. *The Times* said it obtained its information from American officials. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he believed that Pakistan officials were complicit in Shahzad's death. "It was sanctioned by the government," Mullen told reporters in the Pentagon. "I have not seen anything to disabuse the report that the government knew about this."



Saleem Shahzad

Two days after he disappeared, Shahzad's body was found July 1 with 17 lacerations delivered by a blunt instrument, a ruptured liver and two broken ribs. *The Times* wrote, "The Directorate for Inter-Service Intelligence directed the attack on him in an effort to silence criticism." But the agency denied the charge and said the journalist's death was "unfortunate and tragic" and should not be "used to target and malign the country's security agency." Shahzad submitted articles to *Asia Times Online* based in Hong Kong.

◆

Luis Eduardo Gómez, 70, an independent journalist who covered corruption in Colombia's Antioquia province, was fatally shot June 30 while walking home with his wife. The two gunmen escaped on motorbikes. He also was the fourth witness killed in the investigation of alleged links between a paramilitary

group and local politicians. Gómez wrote for the regional newspapers *El Heraldo de Antioquia* and *Urabá al Día*.

◆

Armed assailants broke through the front door of the Veracruz home of Mexican newspaper columnist **Miguel Ángel López Velasco** around 5:30 a.m. June 20 and fatally shot him, his wife and their 21-year-old son while they slept. López, 55, wrote a column for the Veracruz daily *Noviter* on politics, security issues and general interest topics.

◆

Edinaldo Figueira, 36, a blogger, politician and owner of the Brazilian newspaper *Jornal o Serrano*, was gunned down June 15 in Serra do Mel, a town in Brazil's northeastern state of Rio Grande do Norte. He was shot six times by three unidentified men on a motorcycle as he was leaving his office at night. Five suspects were arrested July 2. Figueira received death threats after he published a critical poll on the performance of the local government.



Edinaldo Figueira

◆

Two journalists were killed in Brazil earlier this year: **Luciano Leitão Pedrosa**, a reporter for Radio Metropolitana FM and program producer on TV Vitória, who was gunned down in the northeastern state of Pernambuco April 9; and **Valério Nascimento**, owner and editor of the local newspaper *Panorama Geral*, who was gunned down in Rio de Janeiro state May 3.

◆

Police in Mumbai, India arrested seven suspects in the June 11 slaying of veteran crime reporter **Jyotirmoy Dey**. A special investigations editor of the daily *Midday*, Dey was gunned down in broad daylight by four gunmen on two motorcycles while he was driving his own motorcycle in Powai, a Mumbai suburb. He was shot five times in the head and chest, and died at the scene.

Journalist **Abdel Rahman Bajunaid** was found stabbed to death in Aden, Yemen on May 13, reportedly in connection with his support of the youth revolution. Bajunaid was the second journalist killed in Yemen in 2011 following the March shooting death of *Al-Masdar* reporter **Jamal Ahmed al-Sharabi**.

RELEASED: In May, Libya released journalists who had been detained for several weeks. Freed were **Clare Morgana Gillis**, a freelance reporter writing for *The Atlantic*; **James Foley**, reporter for *Global Post*, *Stars and Stripes*, and Al-Jazeera; Spanish photographer **Manuel Brabo**; and British freelance reporter **Nigel Chandler**.

AMMAN, Jordan: A dozen men armed with clubs stormed into the Agence France-Presse bureau June 15 and smashed furniture, telephones and threw files to the ground. Before the raid, **Randa Habib**, the French news agency's bureau chief, received threats because AFP had reported that stones and bottles had been thrown at King Abdullah's motorcade.

ATHENS, Greece: **Tassos Teloglou**, a well-known TV and newspaper reporter, was knocked unconscious June 15 while covering a demonstration in Constitution Square in Athens. He is an investigative reporter for Skai TV and the daily *Kathimerini*.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland: **Niall Carson**, a photojournalist with Britain's Press Association, and two other men were wounded by gunshots fired June 21 while police were attempting to break up clashes between Protestants and Catholics in Belfast's small Catholic community. Carson was shot in the leg.

CHEPEN, Peru: Peruvian television reporter **Hans Francisco Andrade Chávez** was sentenced July 6 to two years in prison on charges of criminal defamation for a report concerning a local government official and fined the equivalent of U.S. \$1,430. The charge involved an interview with a member of

a local political party who claimed that Chepén's deputy public services director had threatened her life. The court held that the report was untrue. Andrade Chávez, a reporter for the local affiliate of the national television network América, said he believes he was singled out due to his previous reporting on local government.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: **Gnanasundaram Kuhanathan**, news editor of the Tamil-language daily *Uthayan*, suffered serious head injuries July 29 when a group wielding iron bars attacked him near his home in northern Sri Lanka.

DAMASCUS: Reporters Without Borders reported several cases of violence and arrests of journalists in Syria in August and commented: "We fear that Bashar Al-Assad's regime is locked into a repressive frenzy that has reached a point of no return. Isolated internationally, especially since the withdrawal of many Arab ambassadors and the increase in international community pressure, the authorities persist in censoring any discourse different from their own, jailing netizens [internet users] and journalists who have witnessed violence against protesters."

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan: **Urunboi Usmonov**, 59, BBC correspondent in Tajikistan, was arrested June 13 on charges of belonging to an illegal political party, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, and not informing authorities of his contacts with the party and reporting its statements. He was released on bail July 14. Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a radical Islamic movement, has been banned in the Central Asian country since 2001.

GUADALCANAL: OPC member **Moana Tregaskis** attended the August ceremony that commemorated the 69th anniversary of the landing of U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal, the first major World War II offensive by Allied troops against Japan. An honorary Marine Raider, Moana is the widow of **Richard Tregaskis**, who covered the battle and wrote the best-selling book *Guadalcanal Diary*. Richard was one of the first OPC members. Moana was invited to the August 7 ceremony by the U.S. State Department. She has worked with the

American Battle Monuments Commission in erecting monuments on the South Pacific island.

GUAYAQUIL Ecuador: A local court on July 20 sentenced three directors of the daily *El Universo* and a columnist for the paper to three years in prison in a libel suit filed by Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa. Without naming the president, columnist **Emilio Palacio** in a February piece about the president's response to a police mutiny called him a "dictator" and said he could be tried for "crimes against humanity."

ISTANBUL, Turkey: A court in July reduced the sentence of Ogun Samast, who confessed to killing Armenian journalist **Hrant Dink**, from life imprisonment to nearly 23 years in prison because he was underage at the time of the murder, then 17 years old. Dink, editor of the Turkish-Armenian weekly *Agos*, was fatally shot in broad daylight in January 2007 as he left his office in Istanbul.



Waqar Kiani displays bruise wounds after he was abducted by unknown men in July 2008.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: Men in police uniforms stopped the car of **Waqar Kiani**, a correspondent for Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, June 18 and ordered him from his car and then beat him with their fists, batons and a rubber whip. They told him, "We're going to make an example of you." The attack happened five days after Kiani, 32, wrote a dispatch for the *Guardian* about being abducted and tortured in 2008.

JAKARTA, Indonesia: The Indonesia Supreme Court acquitted **Erwin Arnada**, editor of the now defunct *Playboy Indonesia*, of public indecency charges June 22. He had been sentenced to prison in 2010. Six issues

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of *Playboy Indonesia* were published in 2006 before the magazine was closed in the face of protests from the hard-line Islamic Defenders Front.

KABUL, Afghanistan: Three French reporters for France 3 television who were kidnapped by the Taliban in December 2009 were released this June. The reporters, **Hervé Ghesquiere**, **Stéphane Taponier** and **Reza Din**, were seized while working on a story about reconstruction of a road east of Kabul. The French government said it did not pay a ransom for the release. The Taliban had demanded release of several detainees in exchange for the French prisoners. The TV crew's Afghan fixer and driver were freed a few weeks before the French reporters were freed.

KALABARIA, Bangladesh: **Mashilyul Haque**, correspondent of the daily *Dainik Samakal* and president of the Kalia Press Club, and his wife, **Reena Parvin**, were injured by a bomb thrown through their bedroom window around 3 a.m. July 11. Haque said he saw two or three people running away after the explosion, and they also fired shots. The correspondent has written articles about the impunity that criminals enjoy and the protection they get from politicians and local officials.

KHARTOUM, Sudan: **Amal Habani**, a woman reporter for the daily *Al-Jarida*, was fined the equivalent of about U.S. \$869 July 25 or a month in jail for reporting a claim from a woman activist that she was raped by members of the security forces. Habani refused to pay the fine, so she was taken immediately to a woman's prison. **Fatima Ghazali**, a reporter for the same newspaper, was convicted on the same charges July 5, taken to prison but freed two days later when she paid the fine.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia: A court on July 20 ordered opposition political blogger **Amizudin Ahmat**, 42, to pay the equivalent of U.S. \$133,000 in damages and costs in a defamation suit brought by **Rais Yatim**, Malaysia's Minister of Information, Communications and Culture. The minister charged that the blogger posted an item

Murdoch "Humbled" After Newspaper Hacking Charges

Rupert Murdoch, 80, spun into crisis after crisis after his News Corporation shut down *News of the World* amid hacking charges. Resignations, arrests, apologies and death of a whistleblower followed, and a business deal collapsed. Then while Murdoch was testifying in a question-and-answer session before the British Parliament, comedian Jonathan May-Bowles, 26, tossed a pie plate filled with shaving cream at Murdoch while shouting, "You are a naughty billionaire." News Corporation attorney **Janet Nova**, 46, blocked most of the shaving cream from hitting Murdoch. Rupert's wife, **Wendi Deng**, 42, jumped from her seat behind her husband, slung a right hook at the assailant and then threw the pie plate back at him. Police arrested the assailant, his face covered in white cream.

The 168-year-old weekly tabloid was accused of hacking cell phones to expose scandals involving celebrities, government officials, the rich, the royals in Buckingham Palace, the prime minister and private citizens. Staffed by 200 people, the Sunday gossip paper issued its last edition July 10. With a circulation of 2.7 million, *News of the World* was said to be the most widely-read English language weekly in the world. Press reports said the paper was closed to make it easier for Rupert Murdoch to purchase the 61 percent of British Sky Broadcasting that he does not already own. But with the investigating uncovering more phone hacking, News Corporation announced on July 13 that it was withdrawing its \$12 billion offer.

In a statement, **James Murdoch**, Rupert's son and deputy chief operating officer of News Corporation, said the paper had damaged its "proud history of fighting crime, exposing wrong-doing and regularly setting the news agenda for the nation. The *News of the World* is in the business of holding others to account. But it failed when it came to itself."

At least 13 persons were arrested in the hacking inquiry including **James Desborough**, Hollywood correspondent for *News of the World* since 2009. Arrested on corruption charges related to the phone hacking were **Andy Coulson**, editor of *News of the World* from 2003 to 2007 and more recently spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron, and **Clive Goodman**, the paper's former royal correspondent. Also arrested was **Neil Wallis**, a former *News of the World* deputy editor who had become a public relations consultant for the police and who was suspected of phone hacking. Two of Murdoch's top officials resigned July 15: **Les Hinton**, 67, publisher of *The Wall Street Journal* who oversaw Murdoch's British newspaper subsidiary, and **Rebekah Brooks**, 43, who since 2009 had run Murdoch's British newspapers. Then Brooks was arrested on suspicion of illegally intercepting phone calls and paying the police for information. And Britain's top police official resigned. Sir Paul Stephenson, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, known as Scotland Yard, said he quit because "the ongoing speculation and accusations relating to the Met's links with News International at a senior level" made it difficult for him to do his job. But he said he had done nothing wrong. John Yates, one of his deputies, also resigned, saying he was the victim of "malicious gossip." **Sean Hoare**, a former *News of the World* reporter who was the first to report the phone hacking, was found dead in his London home apparently of natural causes.

Rupert Murdoch wrote a letter of apology that was published as a full-page ad in all British newspapers acknowledging that his company did not address its problems soon enough. The letter read in part, "We are sorry for the serious wrongdoing that has occurred. We are deeply sorry for the hurt suffered by the individuals affected." Murdoch also visited the family of Milly Dowler, 13, who was murdered, and apologized that reporters of *News of the World* hacked into the girl's mail while she was still listed as missing.

In his testimony before Parliament, Murdoch's statements included "I just want to say one sentence. This is the most humble day in my life. ...I was absolutely shocked, appalled and ashamed when I heard about the Millie Dower case only two weeks ago. ...Nobody kept me in the dark. I may have been lax about asking."



Committee members react after a protestor, named on Twitter as Jonnie Marbles, tried to throw a custard pie at Rupert Murdoch. Murdoch's wife, Wendi Deng, stepped in.



Rebekah Brooks



last December suggesting he had raped his Indonesian maid.

LAKE EYRE, Australia: All three members of a news crew from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation were killed August 18 when their helicopter crashed in south Australia. They were reporter **Paul Lockyer**, cameraman **John Bean** and pilot **Gary Ticehurst**. Their helicopter came down and burst into flames shortly after taking off in bad weather.

LONDON: About 3,000 journalists working for BBC staged a one-day strike July 15 to protest planned job cuts as the result of lower government funding. At the beginning of this year, BBC said it would need to cut costs by £3 million (about U.S. \$4.8 million) over two years following a reduction of £1.4 million in government funding. The network already has announced 360 job cuts at its online operation and 480 job eliminations at its World Service.

MANAMA, Bahrain: Blogger **Abduljalil Al-Singace** was sentenced to life imprisonment June 22 on charges of belonging to a terrorist organization and trying to overthrow the government. Another blogger, **Ali Abdulemam**, who was tried in absentia in the same case, was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Reporters Without Borders commented, "The only crime committed by Abdulemam and Al-Singace was freely expressing opinions contrary to those of the government."

MINSK, Belarus: **Andrzej Poczobut**, correspondent for the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza*, was freed from prison July 5 after a court gave him a three-year suspended sentence on charges of defaming President Alexander Lukashenko. The journalist was arrested April 6 on charges of insulting and defaming the president in 10 reports posted on a web site and his blog.

NAKACHENJE, Zambia: A three-person crew from the privately-owned Muvi TV that included two women was violently attacked by members of the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) July 18 while the crew was investigating claims that MMD members were illegally seizing

land. Camerawoman **Annita Kalwani**, said the two women in the crew were threatened with rape and the one man in the crew was attacked with stones and sticks, and his forehead cut with a knife. The attackers seized a camera, a microphone, four mobile phones and money. Two suspects were arrested.

NEW YORK: OPC member **David Alpern** has won a \$25,000 grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, matching a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, to continue and expand his hour-long program "For Your Ears Only." Alpern has produced and hosted the weekend radio and podcast program since 1982. Originally the program was named "Newsweek On Air." In a one-two punch last year, *Newsweek* ended its financial support for the program and the network that carried it, Air America, went bankrupt. Drawing on guest experts, authors and journalists from other publications, Alpern continued to supply the show to commercial stations across the country including New York, Washington, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Dallas, Raleigh and New Haven; MetroPlus Radio in Hong Kong; and the Pentagon's American Forces Radio Network. Alpern worked at *Newsweek* as a reporter, writer, bureau chief and senior editor.

Paul Mason, vice president of the OPC Foundation, in September became president and CEO of Link Media, parent company of Link TV, an independent outlet for news, documentary films and cultural programs from around the world. Mason, a former recipient of an OPC Foundation scholarship, previously was a senior vice president at ABC News.



Paul Mason

The Associated Press announced on June 29 that it will open a bureau in Pyongyang, the first Western news organization to operate a full news and photo bureau in North Korea. **Tom Curley**,

AP's chief executive and an OPC member, said, "AP is once again being trusted to open a door to better understanding between a nation and the world." For the past five years, the AP has operated a television office in Pyongyang staffed by North Koreans and managed from Hong Kong. The AP and North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency have been working on the agreement for several months. In March, Curley, AP executive editor **Kathleen Carroll** and senior managing editor for international news **John Daniszewski**, who has judged OPC award entries, traveled to Pyongyang, and then KCNA president **Kim Pyong Ho** led a delegation to New York.

David Rohde, a Pulitzer Prize reporter at *The New York Times* who was kidnapped by the Taliban in 2008, left the paper in June to become a foreign affairs columnist at Reuters. Other notable staffers who have left *The Times* include **Tim O'Brien** and **Peter Goodman**, who joined the *Huffington Post*; and columnists **Frank Rich**, who left to work for *New York* magazine, and **Bob Herbert** to write a book. Several editors on *The Times* op-ed desk joined Bloomberg's new opinion venture.

Sandra Mims Rowe, 63, who has directed award-winning journalism, was elected chairman of the Committee to Protect Journalists by its board in June. She succeeds **Paul Steiger**, president and editor-in-chief of the online investigative reporting *ProPublica*, who served two three-year terms as CPJ president, the maximum allowed. When she was editor of *The Oregonian*, 1993 to 2009, the Portland, Oregon daily won five Pulitzer Prizes. She came to *The Oregonian* from the daily *Virginian-Pilot* of Norfolk, Virginia, where she spent 22 years including 10 years as



Sandra Mims Rowe

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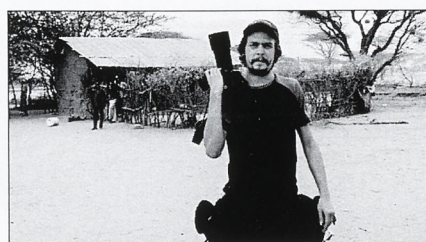
(Continued From Page 7)

editor. From 2010 to this year, Rowe was the Knight Fellow at Harvard University's Shorenstein Center, researching local investigative reporting. She is a past president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and former board chairman of the Pulitzer Prizes.



The earthquake that rocked the U.S. East Coast at 1:51 p.m. August 23 brought back memories of a truly memorable earthquake in Tokyo years ago. **Ernie Hoberecht** was a living legend in Asia from a career that started in World War II and continued into the 1960s. He became vice president of UPI's Asia Division. But New York canned him in 1966 during a dispute with the *Mainichi Shimbun*, UPI's biggest client in Asia. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan gave a farewell dinner for Ernie, who had served two terms as Club president. Just as he rose for his farewell speech, a strong earthquake shook the building, a fitting sayonara for Asia Ernie.

NICOSIA, Cyprus: Mustafa Yalcin, a Turkish citizen, went to the offices of the opposition daily *Afrika*, which opposes Turkish presence in Northern Cyprus, July 3 and asked to speak to the editor, **Sener Levent**. Told that Levent was not there, Yalcin opened fire with a gun but hurt no one. Police arrested him. Yalcin had announced in mid-June that he was going to "kill the traitor."



Johan Persson

OGADEN, Ethiopia: Swedish photo-journalists **Martin Schibbye** and **Johan Persson** of the Kontinent photo agency were arrested in July for crossing the border from Somalia into Ethiopia and for covering rebel activity in

Ogaden. And Somali journalist **Faysal Mohamed Hassan**, who reports for the Hiiran Online news web site, was sentenced July 2 in Somalia to one year in prison on charges of endangering security and reporting false information.

RANGOON: **Ross Dunkley**, the Australian founder and editor of the *Myanmar Times* newspaper, was convicted of assault by a Burmese court June 30. The verdict carries a 30-day jail term, but he was freed on time already served in detention. He was arrested in February on charges of breaking Burmese immigration laws and assaulting a woman identified as a prostitute. Dunkley paid a 100,000 kyat fine (about U.S.\$120) on the immigration charges and said he would appeal the immigration case.

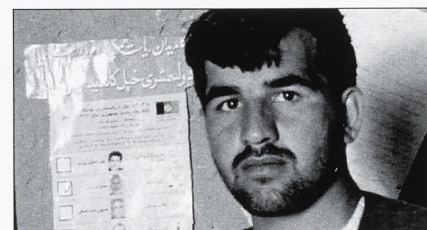
SANA'A, Yemen: Reporting the news from the Middle East has been dangerous for **Glen Johnson**, 28, a freelance correspondent from New Zealand. He was arrested in June for allegedly entering Yemen illegally from Djibouti. Visiting Yemen last year to report on the high rate of female sexual abuse, he was given 36 hours to leave the country. He was arrested four times and beaten once in Egypt while covering protests earlier this year. Johnson has contributed to *The New York Times* and *Le Monde* for over two years and had been investigating a people-smuggling ring for a British magazine when arrested.



Attacks on journalists have skyrocketed in Yemen in 2011 since violent clashes began between opposition forces and the government. May was a particularly bloody month for news organizations and journalists. Several journalists were injured when military forces attacked private satellite broadcaster Suhail TV on May 25. Reporter **Farooq al-Kamali** was shot in the leg two days earlier while covering a gun battle between loyalist troops and members of the Hashid tribal federation. That same day, armed men raided the offices of independent daily newspaper *Al-Oula*, where trainee editor **Hasaan Saeed Hasaan** was stabbed 10 times. On May 13, newspaper reporter **Ibraheem al-Ba'adani** was attacked in

the city of Ibb by opposition forces after being accused of working for the pro-government news agency.

SANKHUWASABHA, Nepal: **Kishor Budhathoki**, a reporter in eastern Nepal for the sister papers *The Himalayan Times* and *Annapurna Post*, was attacked by 10 assailants with knives and sticks in his home at night on August 11, leaving him with severe head injuries. The Katmandu newspaper *Republica* said the attack was related to a story Budhathoki had written on domestic violence. He is vice president of the local chapter of the Federation of Nepali Journalists.



Ahmad Omaid Khpalwak

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan: **Ahmad Omaid Khpalwak**, 25, a reporter for BBC World Service and for Pajhwok Afghan News Agency, was among at least 19 people who were killed July 28 by a bomb blast in Tarin Kot, capital of Uruzgan province. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. He was the first journalist killed in Afghanistan this year. Three journalists were killed in the country last year.

TBILISI, Georgia: Georgian authorities arrested photojournalist **Zurab Kurtsikidze** of the European Pressphoto Agency and three photographers for the nation's president and foreign ministry July 7 on charges of spying for Russia. They pleaded guilty and were sentenced to terms between six months and three years. But they were released on probation July 22 as part of a plea bargain agreement. The four photographers first were charged with passing confidential information to Russian intelligence by delivering photos of an anti-government demonstration to the Russian secret service. Authorities later said they were not arrested for their journalistic work but for possessing confidential documents.

TEHERAN: **Maryam Majd**, 25, an

Iranian sports reporter and photographer, was arrested June 16 the day before she was scheduled to fly to Düsseldorf, Germany to cover the Women's World Football Cup. No reason was announced for her arrest and jailing in Evin prison. She has been a staunch campaigner for the rights of Iranian women to attend soccer matches.

TOKYO: **Georges Baumgartner** of Swiss Radio and Television was re-elected in June to a second one-year term as president of the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan. He defeated **Khaldon Azhari**, bureau chief and correspondent for several Arabic and Middle Eastern media, 136 to 43. The four elected directors included former OPC member **Kenneth Cukier** of *The Economist* who also was re-elected to a second term.



Georges Baumgartner

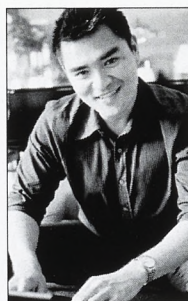
WASHINGTON: **Michael Elliott**, an OPC member since 2004, has left *Time* magazine after 10 years as an editor and *Fortune* magazine columnist on global economy, and on August 1 became CEO of ONE, a global anti-poverty group. ONE is a grassroots organization that fights poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa, by raising public awareness and pressing political leaders to support policies and programs that save lives. Born in England, Elliott joined *Time* in 2001 after serving as editor-in-chief of eCountries, an internet news service on global affairs; editor of *Newsweek International*; and political editor and Washington bureau chief for *The Economist*.



Michael Elliott

Filipino journalist **Jose Antonio Vargas**, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2008, disclosed this spring that he is an undocumented immigrant from the Philippines. In an article in the June 26 issue of *The New York Times Magazine* and in an ABC News interview, Vargas

said his mother sent him to the United States from the Philippines in 1993 when he was 12 to live with his grandparents without authorization for him to stay in the U.S. permanently. His grandfather paid a man \$4,500 to smuggle his grandson into the States.



Jose Antonio Vargas

Vargas wrote in *The Times Magazine*, "I've lived the American dream. But I am still an undocumented immigrant. And that means living a different kind of reality. It means going about my day in fear of being found out. ...It means reluctantly, even painfully, doing things I know are wrong and unlawful." Vargas used an Oregon driver's license with the address of a friend and a falsified Social Security card as legal identifications, even to get into the White House.

He said he was disclosing his illegal status as a way to fight for immigrant rights and passage of a Congressional act to help undocumented children gain citizenship if they join the military or attend college. Vargas won the 2008 Pulitzer for breaking news with his coverage of the Virginia Tech shooting. He has worked for *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, *The Washington Post* and *The Huffington Post*.

WEDDINGS



Michael Birnbaum and Kristine Berzins

Michael Birnbaum, 25, Berlin correspondent for *The Washington Post*, and **Kristine Berzins**, also 25, were married August 6 by a Universal Life minister in Oak Park, Illinois. The bride completed requirements for a master's in international relations at Cambridge University in June and in September began a research fellowship at the

Ecologic Institute, an environmental research group in Berlin.

Andrew Curry, 34, a freelance magazine correspondent in Berlin, and **Jennifer Porto**, 33, a soprano with the Opera Leipzig, an opera house in Leipzig, Germany, were married July 16 in Toro, California by a deputy marriage commissioner. Curry covers science, politics and culture.

Evan Osnos, 34, a staff writer in Beijing for *The New Yorker* and former Beijing bureau chief for *The Chicago Tribune*, and **Sarabeth Berman**, 27, were married by a U.S. Court of Appeals judge July 9 in the Museum of Science in Boston. The bride is a vice president in Beijing for Teach for China, a non-profit educational organization. The couple met in 2008 at a brunch in Beijing.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Everett Bauman, 95, a former correspondent in South America, died August 10 of cancer at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. Shortly before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Bauman started his career as a United Press correspondent in Buenos Aires. The wire service transferred him to Venezuela in 1942, where he managed the bureau during World War II. He then spent 15 years as senior foreign correspondent for the Venezuelan newspaper *El Universal* until his retirement.



John Halaby, right, with friend King Hussein of Jordan

John Halaby, 87, Associated Press correspondent in Jordan who pioneered international journalism in his adopted country, died August 6 in an Amman

(Continued on Page 10)

hospital of heart and respiratory failure. He continued to work until 2007 following a career that extended through most of Jordan's modern history. Halaby made friends with Jordanians from the royal palace to Bedouin tents as he reported the wars and internal turmoil that marked the country's transition from a remote desert backwater to a modern state. Born in Jaffa, Israel, Halaby moved to Jordan in 1945. In 1946, he became the first accredited journalist working fulltime for an international news organization in Jordan when he opened a bureau for Reuters in the city of Salt. Halaby joined the AP in 1965, establishing the news agency's first office in Amman. He reported from the front lines in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, dictating his copy over shaky telephone lines to the AP's regional headquarters in Beirut. He also reported coup attempts in Syria and conflicts in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. His son **Jamal Halaby** now is AP's Jordan correspondent.

◆

Elmer W. Lower, 98, who reported from Africa and Europe during World War II and went on to become president of ABC News, died July 26 in Vero Beach, Florida. After working for UPI and AP, Lower served in the U.S. Office of War Information during WWII, posted in Cairo, Algiers, Naples and London. He also was stationed in Frankfurt as a special information assistant in the High Commission for Occupied Germany. After the war, Lower was a *Life* magazine photo editor and correspondent, working in Paris, Los Angeles and the Far East before becoming a news executive at CBS and NBC. He joined ABC News in 1963 and made it more competitive by tripling its staff of 250, expanding its coverage and recruiting **Peter Jennings**, **Ted Koppel**, **Frank Reynolds** and **Sam Donaldson**. Lower, a former OPC member, retired from ABC in 1978, and he served from 1982 to 1984 as dean of the Journalism School at the University of Missouri, from which he had graduated.



◆

Leo Kirch, 84, who built Germany's second largest media empire from scratch and then lost it in bankruptcy, died July 14 in Munich after suffering from diabetes for years. With the backing of German politicians and investors including **Rupert Murdoch**, **Silvio Berlusconi** and a Saudi prince, Kirch created a \$5 billion empire that included television channels, movie rights, Germany's best-selling tabloid *Bild Zeitung* and Formula 1 car racing. But the Kirch group unraveled and was forced into bankruptcy in 2002 when an expensive bid on digital pay television failed to pay off.

◆

John M. Couric, 90, father of former CBS Evening News anchor **Katie Couric**, died June 22 in an Arlington, Virginia hospital of complications from Parkinson's disease. In 1991, he told *The Washington Post*, "I encouraged her [Katie] to go into broadcasting because I thought it was more promising than print, having been in print myself." After serving in the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean and the Pacific during World War II, Couric was a reporter for the *Atlanta Constitution*, United Press in the U. S. South and Washington, and in public relations before retiring in 1985 after six years with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

◆

Donald B. Towles was a U.S. Army private first class when he worked in Japan as a G.I. reporter for *Pacific Stars & Stripes* from 1953 to 1954. One of his memorable assignments was covering the honeymoon visit to Tokyo of Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio in February 1954. Later Don was an executive at the Louisville, Kentucky *Courier-Journal*. He headed the circulation, promotion and public service

departments during 37 years with that paper. Towles, 83, died at his home June 26 after a long illness.

◆

Ignatius Stephen, 75, a longtime AP and *Borneo Bulletin* reporter in Borneo, died June 16 after injuring his head in a fall at his home in Bandar Seri Begawan, the Brunei capital. A Brunian, he reported from Borneo for about 50 years.

◆

In its spring issue, *Pressnews*, journal of the London Press Club, reported the deaths last year of several British foreign correspondents. **Michael Burn**, 97, who reported from Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia for the *Times* of London, died September 3, 2010. **Roderick Mann**, 87, a Hollywood correspondent for the *Sunday Express* who also contributed to the *Los Angeles Times*, died September 17, 2010. **Chris Munnion**, 70, Africa correspondent for *The Daily Telegraph*, died October 2, 2010. **George Evans**, 90, who reported from Israel, Egypt and Ceylon for the Press Association, died October 4, 2010. **John Bulloch**, 82, who reported from Africa for *The Daily Telegraph* and later from the Middle East for the *Independent*, died November 18, 2010.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Gillian Brockell
Business Reporting
Medill School of Journalism
Northwestern University
Chicago
Student

Jonathan Dahl
Editor-in-Chief
Smart Money Magazine
Active Resident

Christine Kim
New York Correspondent
Chosun Daily Newspaper
Active Resident

Sebastian Meyer
Freelance
Photographer/Filmmaker
Iraq
Active Overseas

Paul Minehart
Head, Corporate
Communications,
North America
Syngenta Corporation
Washington, D.C.
Associate Non Resident

Lawrence Pintak
Journalism Professor
Washington State University
Pullman, WA
Active Non Resident

Anthony Shadid
Beirut Bureau Chief
The New York Times
Active Overseas

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
George Bookman, Chair
David Fondiller
Felice Levin
Linda Goetz Holmes

Yang Explains Taiwan's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Like Policy

by Bryan Le, Asia Society

Philip Y. M. Yang, Taiwan's Minister of the Government Information Office, spoke on creating "peace and prosperity" while "enhancing Taiwan's self-defense" in cross-strait relations with mainland China at an Asia Society luncheon with the OPC on July 12.

Yang addressed these issues in conversation with Jerome Cohen, professor of law at the New York University School of Law, at a program entitled "Taiwan's Win-Win Strategy for Cross-Strait Relations."

Cross-strait relations are a continuing success story, according to Yang, with Taiwan and mainland China boosting Taiwan's trade and tourism, cooperating in the apprehension of Taiwanese criminals escaping to mainland China, participating in cross-strait college education programs that promote understanding, and all but completely forgetting the 2008 cross-strait crisis.

But Yang warned that in order to continue the "win-win" strategy of "mutual non-recognition" and "mutual non-denial"—meaning Taiwan and the mainland do not recognize one another as separate states or sovereignties but also do not deny one another's right to govern their own lands—Taiwan must become a larger presence in the international space by bolstering its military strength through the purchase of U.S. arms.

"For the cross-strait relations to continue to advance, the United States must help Taiwan to level the playing field," said Yang. "Negotiations with a giant like mainland China is not without risk. The right leverage must be in place, otherwise Taiwan cannot credibly maintain an equal footing at the negotiation table."

China's ongoing military modernization — Yang cited China's test flight of the J-20 stealth fighter during Defense Secretary Robert Gates' visit as an example — also presents itself as a good reason for Taiwan to pursue acquiring "F-16C/D jet fighters and diesel-electric submarines from the



New York University Law Professor Jerome Cohen, left and Philip Y.M. Yang in discussion.

United States."

Despite what might seem to some as Taiwan making preparations for war, Yang ensures that the purchase of U.S. weapons is not a cross-strait "arms race" or "provocation," but is instead "solely meant" for self-defense capabilities and to prevent military conflict.

When asked about tensions in the South China Sea, Yang said that while Taiwan does support Beijing's legal claim to the region, it has "no intention to cooperate or talk with the Beijing government whatsoever," as Taiwan does not yet want to turn its economic alliance with the mainland into a political one. Yang's answers upheld his position on cross-strait relations, which is that notions of military power should be held separate from crisis resolution.

"Every party in this issue should refrain from using any military force to resolve their problems — peaceable means should be conducted," said Yang. "We encourage every country to deal with issues through peaceful negotiations and dialogue."

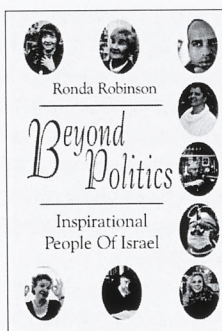
A video of the entire program can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/q3CNPg>

New Books: (Continued From Page 16)

70s, started a charity fund out of her own pocket to give poor Jews a chicken dinner on the Sabbath. Her mitzvah grew until she was feeding 250 families a week, with the support of donors worldwide.

Beyond Politics shows life in Israel behind the headlines. It offers a balance to the way Israel often is presented in the news. It puts a human face to Israel with stories of people who take a stand for their dreams. These portraits, with photos by **David Silverman**, a news photographer in Israel for Reuters and Getty Images, capture a variety of secular and religious Israelis of all backgrounds.

In the preface, Ronda, an American, writes about her life and the goal of her book. "I have been searching for home all my life.



I found it on my first trip to Israel in 1994. My soul immediately felt comfortable there. ...It seemed that [American] reporters used tanks, bus explosions, suicide bombers and security walls to convey the world of Israel. ...My intention is to make a complex land approachable by introducing some of the colorful personalities who inhabit it." Robinson, a former foreign correspondent in Israel, now is a writer/editor at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. She has written for national and international publications including *American Profile*, *Hadassah*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Jerusalem Report*, *Ms.*, *Rolling Stone*, *Travel & Leisure*, *USA Today*, *The Washingtonian*, *Woman's World* and CNN.com.



Ronda Robinson

— by Al Kaff

How One Journalist Earned a Trenchcoat in Iraq

by Sebastian Meyer

How do you become a foreign correspondent these days? In a time when most big media are cutting back and few jobs are to be found, one way is simply to take the plunge — go to a place where interesting things are happening and start telling the story. Here's how one wannabe morphed into a seasoned photographer, writer, videographer and co-developer of Metrography, the first photo agency in Iraq.

"You live in Iraq? Really? Why?" is a pretty common reaction when I tell people where I live. But moving here is how I turned myself from a struggling press photographer into a real foreign correspondent.

I grew up in New York and studied French Literature at Carleton College in Minnesota. My junior year, while studying in Paris, I had a chance encounter with an American photographer. Three times a week I went to her studio, where she would let me process the black and white film I was snapping around the city. One day she handed me the Magnum Degree book. The moment I opened the book, I was hooked and started spending time in the European House of Photography. Two years later, I got an internship at Magnum's New York office where I spent the following nine months between the Magnum offices and studios of fashion photographers, educating myself on photography.

But because of a long-distance relationship with an English woman and my dual U.K./U.S. nationalities, I moved to a flat in Manchester in October 2004.

My second day there, I took my portfolio to the *Manchester Evening News*, where I impressed the picture editors more with my "New Yorkness" than with my photographs. However, their deputy picture editor handed me my first assignment the following day: to photograph a large TV screen in the center of town that was showing the breaking news of the beheading of Ken Bigley, the British civil engineer who was kidnapped and executed by Islamic militants in Iraq. The next assignment came in a few days and over the next couple of months I moved from doing small assignment work to getting full-day shifts at the paper.

The paper was a local tabloid and I quickly became frustrated with the work, which pushed me to do my first personal project, Manchester Canals, a photo-essay about the city that I shot while walking up and down the city's old industrial canals. It was an antidote to the tabloid material I was producing for the paper.

After 18 months, my relationship ended and I couldn't take any more tabloid work, so I moved to London hoping for better assignments. London is crammed with photographers and the competition was fierce, but I managed to get jobs here and there, and began to shoot news, features, business stories, and the occasional PR gig. But this work was no more satisfying than shooting local Mancunian celebrities and my frustration gave birth to a second personal project, "Crackney," a story about addiction in my neighborhood in East London.

Out of the blue, I got a break. I had done some pro-bono work for a magazine editor, and in the fall of 2008 his father asked if I would be interested in a six-week assignment in Iraqi Kurdistan. Two months later, while Barack Obama was being elected President and the global economy was falling apart, I was having the time of my life in northern Iraq. For the first time in



Sebastian Meyer shoots video on the streets of Kabul as curious Afghan children look on.

my photo career, I was paid to work abroad on a long-term story.

My friend's father had been making documentaries about the Kurds since the '70s and had recently been asked by the Kurdish Regional Government to make a documentary about Anfal, the 1988 genocide that Saddam Hussein ordered against Iraq's Kurdish population. My friend's father wanted to include stills in the film, which is why I was there. While shooting the project, I was introduced to young Kurdish photographer, Kamaran, and we became friends. At the end of the assignment Kamaran and I spent two weeks photographing the region: refugees in the rebel-controlled mountains that border Iran, enslaved Bangladeshi migrant workers, anti-terror raids in the volatile city of Kirkuk.

The fun ended when I returned to London and saw what happened in the two months I'd been away: most of my clients had either replaced me or had fired their freelancers altogether.

In May, I was asked to return to Iraq for another six weeks and that June Iraqi Kurdistan officially exported its own oil for the first time in its history. The PR surrounding the event was enormous and I thought I could get a piece of it. Through persistent e-mailing and calling, I got a contract with a Norwegian oil company that was drilling in the region. Unlike the PR shoots and events I'd done in the U.K., this was a serious corporate shoot that came with a serious corporate price tag.

Little by little, a pattern was appearing: In the U.K. I was forced to scrounge around for small news assignments and PR work that bored me. In Iraq, I was surrounded by stories that fascinated me. In the U.K., I was forced to compete with thousands of other photographers. In Iraq, there are a handful of us and we are friends. It didn't take long to convince myself to move. The semi-autonomous northern region of Iraq was safe and fascinating. I didn't have much money saved nor did I come with the backing of any organization. I spoke maybe a dozen words of Kurdish.

Kamran came up with the idea of starting Metrography, Iraq's first photo agency. To be honest, I thought it was a good idea, but I was so wrapped up in my own career that I didn't get that involved except for the occasional e-mail. It wasn't until I spent nine months sleeping on the couch in the Metrography office that I realized what a brilliant idea Metrography was. There was no network of Iraqi photographers, no way for them to sell

(Continued on Page 13)

Club Celebrates Thirty Years of "Middle Kingdom" Coverage

by Jaime FlorCruz

It was a class act in what used to be a classless society.

Seven past presidents of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China (FCCC) gathered in Beijing on June 11 for a one-night-only appearance, to sing a revisionist Party song, Beijing, Beijing to the tune of "New York, New York."

The Seven Immortals — Jaime FlorCruz (*Time*, now CNN), Jim McGregor (*The Wall Street Journal*), Barbara Alighiero (ANSA), Ted Plfker (*The Economist*), OPC member Melinda Liu (*Newsweek*), Jonathan Watts (*The Guardian*), and Scott McDonald (AP) — joined the FCCC's current president Stephen McDonnell (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) in a choral rendition that brought down the house at the Club's 30th year anniversary bash.

Organizers billed the party as "30 years of covering the Middle Kingdom — a celebration of survival."

More than 200 members and guests attended the party held at The Red Capital, a quaint courtyard-restaurant laden with Cultural Revolution mementos. FCCC vice president Peter Ford (*The Christian Science Monitor*) emceed the sold-out event.

Members reminisced the club's great and glorious years. "We have fought the good fight without flagging or fading," says OPC member FlorCruz, reflecting on his 30 years as foreign correspondent in China. "As Mao used to say, to road is tortuous but the future is bright!"

Battle-scarred revolutionaries recalled the glorious days when China was considered a "hardship post" covered by a tiny band of foreign correspondents.

Founding member Graham Earnshaw, formerly with Reuters and now a publishing entrepreneur in Shanghai, remembers how the Club, originally known as the Peking FCC, started: "The Norwegian radio correspondent Harald Munthe-Kaas and I hatched the enterprise in 1981, but Harald declined the offer to serve as the first club president, and suggested, correctly, that we should have a Yugoslav as the first president. The aim was always to create something which could have a positive and mutually useful relationship with the Foreign Ministry Info Department." At an inaugural meeting in the International Club,



FCCC celebrates the anniversary with song.

attended by about 35 to 40 correspondents, *Politika* correspondent Drago Rancic was elected president and Earnshaw as club secretary, "both without opposition as is only right and proper," Earnshaw quips.

"China and the foreign press corps in Beijing have both grown and changed in a myriad ways since that day, but it seems there are also ways in which China and the situation of foreign reporters in the capital have changed little if at all," Earnshaw says. "This is to the good, providing a continuity and richness that extends back way before 1981 into the mists of Chinese history."

In spite of the inability of the Chinese Mandarins to recognize in any way, shape or form the existence of the FCCC, the Club remains a robust professional group with more than 340 members, including 242 correspondents representing some 120 media organizations from 32 countries. It also has 53 associate members and 47 media associates. Over the years, covering China has become relatively easier with better access to newsmakers, more convenient logistics and improved quality of life. But Club members still complain of persistent official censorship and bureaucratic restrictions, plus pollution and traffic.

Jaime FlorCruz is Beijing bureau chief for CNN and an OPC member.

Journalist in Iraq:

(Continued From Page 12)

their work and no real way for them to get professional training. As much as I was concerned with my career, I found enjoyment and satisfaction working with Kamaran to promote and educate Iraqi photographers. Little by little in 2010, I began to help put Metrography together, modifying it from just a collective of his photographer friends into an actual agency with a non-profit educational side.

My personal work grew as well. I'd spent the year shooting stories and getting friends to put me in touch with their editor contacts across the globe.

In March 2010, I got my first assignment for *Time* magazine and got the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* with a photograph from the Iraqi elections. Two months later I decided that I wanted to cover the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and organized an embed in Mosul, the last real hotspot of the Iraqi insurgency. When I arrived, I found that U.S. forces had almost entirely stopped combat operations so I had little to photograph. The story however, was fascinating, and I was getting amazing material with the troops. So I decided I would write a piece, and through a friend, got the contact details of the Middle East editor at *The Christian Science Monitor*. I had no previous writ-

ing experience, so she wouldn't take the piece site unseen. I wrote the article, e-mailed it to Boston and she bought it. That same day, I got an e-mail from a video producer at an online publication, asking if I'd make a short video for him and I immediately set about shooting the story. After a disagreement, I was intent on still selling this video and e-mailed some friends to see if they had any contacts for video editors and I got addresses for the editors at Time.com and Guardian.co.uk. Time.com passed, but Guardian.co.uk took it with no changes. I sold guardian.co.uk a second video while I was

(Continued on Page 14)

Freedom of the Press Committee Annual Report

The OPC Press Freedom Committee is preparing for a major transition. We seek a new generation of leadership as we move into a new era, with a wider franchise to fit journalism's new conditions.

When the new Board of Governors meets next month, FOP co-chairmen, Kevin McDermott and Jeremy Main, will step down from their leadership roles — Kevin after 15 years and Jeremy after 10. The committee thanks them for their long and dedicated service to the cause, and is grateful that they will continue to help with the work. Co-chairman Larry Martz has agreed to run the committee for another year while looking for his replacement. During this year, we will also be exploring new ways for the committee to contribute to the defense and expansion of press freedom.

In the past year, we have written our traditional letters protesting abuses of press freedom to 31 governments, some of them as many as five times. We have focused in recent months on the events of the Arab Spring, with letters to 11 regimes in the arc of rebellion — stretching from Tunisia to Pakistan.

These letters have been an OPC franchise for more than 50 years, and are part of our "brand." While they serve mainly to reinforce the work of such media watchdogs as the Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and the International Press Institute — organizations with paid staffers who can seek out and verify new cases — we think the letters do help abused journalists and enhance the OPC's image as an organization. On more than one occasion, the journalists for whom we have gone to bat

have told us that we made a difference. We intend to keep writing letters, but not to focus on raising our output. In especially egregious cases, we will try sending e-mails to all OPC members asking them to send letters or e-mails of their own reinforcing the protest.

Among the new activities we will propose to the Board of Governors:

- More articles for the OPC website, the Bulletin and other publications, on current issues of press freedom. In the past year, we have conducted a forum, for example, on the Wikileaks issue, among our members on the Club's website, written two interim reports on the Arab Spring uprisings, reported on the Mexican drug wars and the bogged-down prosecutions in the massacre of 31 Philippine journalists in 2009. We will look for more forum topics and more subjects for general articles.

- We will become much more active in converting such topics to blogs and postings on the OPC pages on Facebook and Twitter. This should help the OPC reach and energize a younger generation of journalists, and help the committee recruit new members interested in its work.

- The committee has already written the first of a series of quarterly reports on the state of press freedom in the world, which will appear not only on our website, but in *World Policy Journal*, the magazine of the World Policy Institute — and in other magazines around the world as we can sign them up. We will ask OPC members stationed abroad for help in focusing each quarterly issue on relevant topics and following up on important cases.

- Working with the OPC Foundation, the committee will encourage the foundation's scholarship winners to take an active part in press freedom work. This could include blogs and social media postings as well as pieces for the website on press freedom in the countries where they are posted, Q&A interviews with journalists there, or expanded reports following up on abuses we have protested.

- We will work with journalism schools, beginning in New York, to offer guest lectures and seminars on press freedom issues. We hope to find interns to help with our work, and to enlist other students in blogging, posting and tweeting about current concerns such as the recent court decision exonerating the CIA for destroying videotapes of the torture of terrorist suspects — a case that would not call for one of our traditional letters, but certainly speaks to freedom of information and accountability.

- We will explore new sources of funding for the committee's expanded activities. We will also ask new board members to take an active part in our work.

- To underscore the OPC's commitment to press freedom, the committee will also recommend to the Board that its chairman should automatically serve as a de facto board member, and that the board should consider making the chairmanship an elected position.

*Respectfully submitted by: Larry Martz, Jeremy Main and Kevin McDermott
Co-chairmen, Freedom of the Press Committee*

Journalist in Iraq: (Continued From Page 13)

in Afghanistan embedded in southern Kandahar. A day after it was published, my phone rang: Would I be interested in selling PBS that piece from Afghanistan? We agreed on a price but it was only after hanging up that I realized I had negotiated a sale of a few thousand dollars in my underpants in the dark, living proof that precious little glamour exists in this business.

When I covered the rebellion in Libya in March, I contacted everyone pitching around for work. In the six weeks I was there, I shot for *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *De Volkskrant*, *Financial Times*, *Executive*, and *The Telegraph*, which published my world exclusive in finding the U.S. jet crashed outside of Benghazi.

I dug out the *Time* contact who had turned down my Mosul

piece the previous May and sold him a story about the psychological effects of the conflict on Libyan civilians. And while in Misrata, I shot and sold video footage to CNN, FOX, Channel 4 News, and ITV News.

But most important to me, this past June, I organized a groundbreaking photojournalism workshop for Metrography's Iraqi photographers. I brought over three internationally acclaimed photojournalists as well as the international picture editor at *Time* magazine who gave our photographers a spectacular write-up on the *Time* photography blog. This fall, I'm starting a long-term story about Iraqi Kurdistan that I hope to turn into a book and multimedia project. I'll be working on this in addition to doing assignment work and running Metrography.

When people ask me, "Why do you live in Iraq?" I can only answer, "How could I not?"

Q&A With Documentary Filmmaker, Pamela Yates

by Peshha Magid

Pamela Yates is an acclaimed documentary filmmaker and 2006 OPC Robert Spiers Benjamin Award winner, whose recent film, *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* is both a memoir and an investigation of the genocide that occurred in Guatemala in the 1980s. Between 1982 and 1983 it is estimated that 70,000 people were killed or removed by the government seeking to suppress guerilla insurgencies by intimidation of the native Mayan communities. During that time, Yates filmed her first documentary *When the Mountains Tremble*, which featured interviews with leaders of the Guerilla movement and the top generals of the Guatemalan army. Years later, that footage became incredibly important with the commencement of a human rights case in Madrid against the perpetrators of the genocide. The lead lawyer in the case Almudena Bernabeu contacted Yates and asked her to go through the outtakes of *When the Mountains Tremble* to find incriminating evidence against the dictatorship. *Granito* began with that search and with Yates' realization that the story she had told in Guatemala was far from over.

Q: What kind of impact do you think your documentaries have had in Guatemala?

A: I made my first feature documentary in 1982; it was called *When the Mountains Tremble* and it concerned the genocide in Guatemala. The film was banned in Guatemala; it was shown underground at times, but the first time it was officially shown was in 2003 and it received a standing ovation. A lot of people attended and one of them was the Spanish lawyer on the case on Guatemala. She approached me and asked me to go through my old outtakes of *When the Mountains Tremble* to help with the human rights case in Madrid, and see if there was any evidence in my old archives. As far as the impact goes, the liability theory in the genocide case is interlinked with the chain of command and a genocide case is very hard to prove. And in my film I have documented a moment when the head general, Rios Montt, actually says 'If I am not commanding the army then what am I doing?' He takes responsibility and that is very important.

Q: Do you think change is possible in Guatemala?

A: I think there have been significant efforts with significant effects made in the steps to bringing the perpetrators of the genocide at least to justice. Obviously, there is still a lot that needs to be done in both the human rights case and the country in general.

The Spanish word *granito* means a tiny grain of sand, and the concept is that everyone has their *granito*, their grain of sand to contribute to creating change. It seems that many things are happening, not just the arrest of Lopez Fuentes. There are other examples of police violence that has now morphed into drug trafficking that all have been brought to justice recently. I feel that this is an important time for Guatemala.

Q: The majority of the perpetrators of the genocide continued to benefit from impunity in Guatemala. Considering this, do you believe the title *How to Nail a Dictator* is fitting?

A: I feel like *Granito* seems like a hopeful film not a sad one. Justice is not just something that goes to trial. There are many



forms of moving forward and identifying crimes before things change because change comes very slowly. And that's why this concept of *granito* is so important. Especially when it comes to documentary film making and that's why I made the movie that is about documentary film making and what a difference documentary films make.

Q: Have you ever been threatened by the Guatemalan government for your work on the genocide?

A: No I haven't. But recently Fredy Peccerelli (a forensic anthropologist) who was featured in the film, in the last three weeks his second-in-command received a text message that said 'We will smash you and your children's faces into grains of sand like *granito*.' So it can be very dangerous, especially for the people living in Guatemala.

Q: Why did you focus so much on your previous documentary, instead of just showing the elements of the human rights case in both Guatemala and Madrid?

A: One of the key themes in *Granito* is the importance of human rights documentation and the effect it has had on rule of law and justice done in Guatemala and throughout Latin America. Remember the part in the film where I talk about Pinochet, the Argentine generals, and Fujimori all brought to justice because of human rights documentation?

There are three types of documentation outlined in the film: the forensic anthropologists (Fredy Peccerelli) exhuming the bones and discovering how people were killed in the genocide; the forensic archivist (Kate Doyle) declassifying secret U.S. government documents through the Freedom of Information Act, and getting Guatemalan military documents leaked to her; and me - the documentary filmmaker, thinking I was telling one story, when actually the footage filmed in 1982 has a whole different meaning today. I want *Granito* to be a letter to the next generation of documentary filmmakers that what you do now, can make a difference, and that the documentation, the filmic storytelling, can have an impact.

Peshha Magid studies Arabic and English Literature at Edinburgh University and will return to Scotland in the fall.

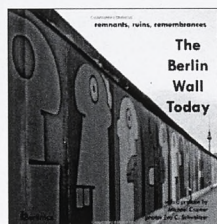
New Books

EUROPE

VISITORS TO BERLIN OFTEN

ask, "Where was the Wall?" And many people think removing the Wall was a mistake. OPC member **Eva Schweitzer** remembers the Wall in *The Berlin Wall Today: Remnants, Ruins and Remembrances* [New York: Berlinica Publishing]. Eva illustrates her book with more than 100 color photos she took of what remains of the Wall with a textual description of each scene. The book takes the reader on a tour of the last traces and fading memories of the historic symbol of the Iron Curtain — to memorials, parks, hidden back yards, old train tracks, factory buildings, churches, and Prussian cemeteries.

Justinian Jampol, director of the Wende Museum in Los Angeles, wrote, "This book presents the story of the Wall from many perspectives — it's not just a guide,

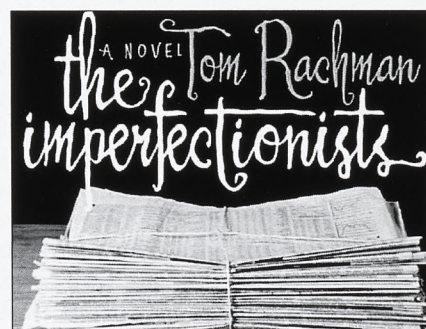


Eva Schweitzer

but a commentary on the significance of the Wall. It highlights the dark history of the Iron Curtain, as well as its political and artistic legacy as a canvas and cultural landmark." Schweitzer covers media, entertainment, Broadway and Wall Street for the German publications *Die ZEIT*, *Berliner Zeitung* and *Frankfurter Rundschau*. She divides her time between Berlin and New York City, where she lives in a former Times Square hotel that once housed Lee Harvey Oswald.

IF YOU EVER WORKED ON A

newspaper, the novel *The Imperfectionists* [New York: Dial Press] will bring back memories, fond, sad and outrageous, of reporters and editors you knew. The author, **Tom Rachman**, who was born in London in 1974 and grew up in Vancouver, Canada, knows his stuff. He is a former AP correspondent in Rome and a former editor of the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris. With humor and shocks, Rachman, in his first novel, writes about the topsy-turvy private lives of reporters, editors and readers of an English-language paper published in Rome. In reviews, *The Christian Science Monitor* wrote, "A must-read for any rueful journalistic types." *The New Yorker*, "This acute debut [novel] portrays the world of neurotic journalists." *Newsday*, "The print newspaper may be an endangered species, but the newsroom — with its deadlines, quirky characters and investigative crusades — still makes for a good story." **Susan Graw Gallagher**, a fellow reporter in Hong Kong, introduced this



columnist to this book. In an e-mail to Gallagher, I wrote, "The book is funny, profound and well written. People who report for newspapers are admirable, nutty, loveable, remarkable and unforgettable." Susan replied, "I loved the book but found it poignant, too, because it chronicled the end of an era — the decline of the newspaper as you and I knew it."

MIDDLE EAST

EXAMINE A NATION THROUGH

its people, not through the headlines. That is what OPC member **Ronda Robinson** does in *Beyond Politics: Inspirational People of Israel* [Jacksonville, Florida/Jerusalem, Israel: Mazo Publishers]. Her book features 19 Israelis who are making a difference in the lives of others. They range from the first Ethiopian to be a Knesset member to an Iraqi-born pediatric heart surgeon who saves the lives of children who come to Israel from all over the world. Another character is the "Chicken Lady of Jerusalem," Clara Hammer, who in her

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